

10/604,241

Amdt. Dated Apr. 26, 2005

Reply to Office Action of Jan. 16, 2005

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Examiner Buttner suggested moving the last parenthesis to correct this indefiniteness and claims 1, 6 and 7 have been amended accordingly.

Claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by, and claims 1, 2, 4, 6-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Wu *et al*, U.S. Patent Number 6486261 ("Wu"). Claim 1 has been amended to limit the polytetramethylene ether glycol terminated hexamethylene diisocyanate prepolymer to having a NCO group content ranging from 8.0% to 12.0%, support for which is found at paragraph [0037] of the Specification. Wu specifically teaches "a cover layer comprising a polyurethane composition formed from a prepolymer having no greater than 7.5 percent by weight unreacted isocyanate groups." (See the Abstract and Column 5, lines 42-44). Thus, Wu teaches away from the amended claims. Further, Wu's reference to "mixtures thereof" follows a list of 18 polyamine curatives (isomers counted separately). Mixtures could mean all 18 mixed together or any combination.  $18!$  (factorial) is  $6.402 \times 10^{15}$  different possible mixtures.

Claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by, and claims 1, 2, 4, 6-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Voorheis *et al*, U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0064826 ("Voorheis"). Claims 1, 6-8 and 12-13 have been amended to include the limitation that of trimethylolpropane in an amount of 1-to 10 parts per one hundred parts of curative blend, support for which is

10/604,241

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found at paragraph [0054] of Specification. Voorheis is directed at the use of 2.2 parts per hundred of an halogenated organosulfur in the core of a golf ball. Like Wu, Voorheis provides a laundry list of ingredients. However, like Wu, Voorheis fails to disclose the use of trimetholylpropane in a curative within the claimed range.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious as being unpatentable over Wu or Voorheis in view of Isaac *et al.*, U.S. Patent Number ("Isaac") or Peter, et al. U.S. Patent Number 313 ("Peter"). The failure of Wu and Voorheis to disclose the invention of the amended claims has been discussed above. Isaac and Peter also fail to disclose the invention of the amended claims

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, and 13 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-6 of U.S. Patent Number 6,787,626. A terminal disclaimer is filed herewith for U.S. Patent Number 6,787,626.

The Cross-Reference section has been amended to reflect the issuance of the parent application. The Title has been amended to correct an electronic filing error.

It is believed that the remaining claims are allowable. The Applicant therefore respectfully solicits a Notice of Allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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